



# KEYWORDS

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## **GEOS:**

GEOS stands for Graphical Environment Operating System. It is a Graphical User Interface (GUI) style of OS, and it brings to the Commodore 64 and 128 integrated applications. The graphical nature of GEOS allows applications to use fonts of any size, bitmaps, and menus and mice. The system was Designed by Berkeley Softworks, now GEOWorks, and is supported now by CMD. There are a number of graphical style GEOS applications, like GEOWrite, GEOPaint, GEOPublish, GEOTerm, etc. The system is very easy to use, and is very fast, even when compared to other GUIs like Windows and OS/2. GEOS can make very effective use of a Ram Expansion Unit, a RAMDrive or RAMLink, or GEORam. GEOS allows you to configure your REU to appear just like another (very fast) disk drive, although it does not keep its contents when you turn your computer off. So, any GEOS software that works off of a disk will work out of your REU. Since GEOS is very disk-intensive, this greatly improves the performance of your system. Indeed, some firm GEOS adherents have said that they would not use GEOS without a RAM device of some sort. GEOS will not work with a stock 1700. To have a RAM drive, in GEOS, you must have at least 256K of expansion. Thanks to patches developed by Jim Collette, GEOS also supports 1 Meg, 1.5 Meg, and 2 Meg REUs. GEOS files are structured differently from standard Commodore files. They cannot be uploaded or downloaded directly. Before you upload a GEOS file, use the freeware GEOS application convert2.5 by W.C. Coleman to convert it to Commodore format. When you down-

load a GEOS file, you must use the same program to convert it to GEOS format. By convention, GEOS format files converted to standard Commodore format have a .cvf on the end; however, many converted GEOS files just have the same name as the original GEOS file. As a rule of thumb, any GEOS file you download, regardless of the extension, must be converted to GEOS format with convert2.5. If you download an archive of GEOS files (e.g. a .arc or .sda file containing GEOS files), you must first dissolve the archive using your C64 or C128 in native mode. The constituents of the archive will be converted to GEOS files, whether or not they have the .cvf extension. Each of these constituents (which are GEOS files) must be individually converted to GEOS format with convert2.5. If you need some help with GEOS or any aspect of it, refer to Myles Skinner at mskinner@julian.uwo.ca. He is one of many people who use GEOS every day and can be of help.

More about GEOS in future issues of Keywords.

## **Meetings**

CUGSL - 2nd Thursday each month - 7:30PM to 9:00PM - Bridgeton Trails Library on McKelvey Rd. located one block south of St. Charles Rock Road.

Board of Directors - 1st thursday - same time & location.

BASICs/Graphics SIG - 4th Wednesday each month - 7:00PM to 9:00PM- same location.

Other SIG Groups meet at various times and places. Check with the SIG Leaders.

## **Novaterm 9.6**

Nick Rossi, Developer of Novaterm is offering Novaterm 9.6 with a 50% discount to Commodore users Groups that first register with a one-time fee of \$30.00 and make an initial purchase of 10 or more copies.

The one-time fee must be accompanied by an initial purchase of at least 10 copies of Novaterm 9.6 at the 50% discount, which comes to at least \$150.00. (Each copy includes the user's manual.)

The registration fee covers shipping cost for the first shipment, as well as shipping costs for future orders made by members.

The members present at the Sept. meeting decided to take advantage of this offer and we are very close to having the required 10 purchasers. The order will be held up until after the Oct. meeting to give other members time to take advantage. If you are interested come to the Oct. meeting or call Ed Hummel at 398-5748. The necessary \$15.00 per purchase will have to be in by the October meeting and the Treasury will pay the registration fee.

In the future, members of the group may make individual purchases at the 50% discount. Since the shipping cost are covered by the group's initial registration fee, the cost to each user is only \$15.00. This is really an excellent deal for user groups and their members. In my opinion Novaterm is the premier telecomm program for the Commodore.

## **BOD Meeting**



Held on Sept. 5 with 5 members present. Plans were made for the Sept. 12 General Meeting. Joe McDevitt has had no response regarding a daytime SIG.

He said it's time to plan the Xmas Party and to select a Nominating Committee for election of new Board of Directors. He suggested that we post ads on BBS to inform members what equipment is out there. Ed Hummel requested that info for Keywords reach him by the 20th of each month.

He also reminded the BOD that October is the time set to audit the Treasurer's Books.

The club has plenty of 5 1/4 disks and Rich Scheu has offered to put out the DOM but has asked for help in finding programs.



## **September CUGSL Meeting**

Joe McDevitt opened the meeting at 7:30PM. Minutes from the previous meeting were read & approved.

Ed Hummel gave Treasurer's report. Bank balance is \$619.18. We have 37 members, with some in arrears on their dues.

We had one visitor, Jason Whitener, from Cape Girardeau. he joined the club and offered to help Rich Scheu when he asked for some more PD programs for the DOM.

Ed Hummel reported on the Novaterm 9.6 disk and the great offer being made by the developer. (See article in previous column).

Joe asked for a volunteer to oversee the Christmas Party.

A Nominating Committee of Clara McClaskey and Phil Bunch will seek new candidates for the November elections to the Board of Directors. BOD elects Club Officers.

Clara McClaskey volunteered to contact the Library for Meeting Rooms on October 5 for the 1st & 2nd Thursdays for BOD & General Meetings and the 4th Wednesday for the BASICS/ Graphics SIG for next year.

Attendance prizes were won by Bill Keeney, Nick Koschoff and Phil Bunch.

The program for the night was "Members In the Know" and questions and answers were exchanged by the membership.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.

Walt Smith, Secretary

## **FAQ** (Frequently Asked Questions)



What do I do for my sick keyboard?

Clean it: Materials you will need: Denatured (rubbing) alcohol, a clean pencil eraser, cotton swabs, a small Phillips head screwdriver, a jewellers size Phillips screwdriver, a solder iron of some type, and a Commodore 64 computer keyboard. Procedure: 1. **FIRST AND FOREMOST.** Make certain that you have discharged any static electricity in your body by grounding yourself to something like a cold water pipe. Otherwise, you could blow chips in your computer if you were to touch the wrong things. 2. Turn off your computer and unplug any and all cords and connectors, fast-loaders, modems, etc. (just have yourself a naked (if you will excuse the expression) computer). 3. Thoroughly clean all external connectors and ports with the swabs and alcohol. Also, clean all plugs that go into those ports. If the problem you had persists, proceed with the following: 4. On a clean surface, turn your key-board upside-down. Remove the screws in the bottom. 5. **CAREFULLY**, separate the two halves about an inch. Unplug the connector to the "power" LED on the top of the C-64. 6. Place the two halves flat so that the keyboard is facing you. The two halves will be connected by a wire harness. This harness may be held down by tape that must be removed in order to place the unit flat. 7. Remove the 15 or so brass screws that hold the circuit board under the keyboard. 7a. Unsolder the wires going to the shift-lock key. 8. Turn the circuit board over. You will see the bottom of the keyboard with a rubber "U" under each key, which makes contact with the board. You will also see on the circuit board, a pair of gold contacts for each key on the C-64. 9. **CAREFULLY** wash ALL the rubber "U"s and the gold contacts with the swabs and rubbing alcohol. Allow the alcohol to DRY. 10. Gently, clean each gold contact with the eraser. **BRUSH AWAY THE ERASER CRUMBS** (I use a small hand-held, battery-powered

vacuum cleaner). 11. Re-clean the gold contacts with the swabs and alcohol to ensure that you have removed ALL traces of the eraser. 12. Re-assemble the C-64 in the reverse order of dis-assembly.

### **DISCLAIMER**

Keywords passes on information and does not take any responsibility for its accuracy.

## **The Swap Meet**

Eleven people from CUGSL set up tables with their compute wares, outside customers were non-existent, but there was brisk trade among the sellers and CUGSL members.

No one from McDonnell Users Group or Gateway of Illinois showed up. But a good time seemed to be had by those present. We hope that future swap meets will bring in more people.

## **News Flash**

Bill Kimes (new member) has started a Color BBS for the Commodore. If anyone is interested call 677-3747, sign on and Bill will validate you as soon as he can. Bill lives in High Ridge and assures me this is not a toll call. This BBS will have sections for CMD News and CUGSL

## **Upcoming Events**

Halloween Hamfest  
Saturday Oct. 26, 1996  
West County Tech  
8:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Lewis & Clark Radio Club Hamfest  
Sat. Nov. 2, 1996 8:00 AM to ?  
Lewis & Clark Community College  
Godfrey, Illinois

## **Do You Know...**



If you add two small lines to your program you can scratch and save and not have to use the out-dated and unreliable SCRATCH & SAVE command?

What those funny characters on the Commodore keys are for and how to use them?

How to change the color of the border, background and characters?

How to give each character a background color and have each character a different color?

How to solve those problems with programs or the Commodore computer?

You can get the answer to these and many more questions at the BASICs/Graphics SIG every 4th Wednesday, 7:00PM to 9:00PM at the Bridgeton Trails Library. Come and let Joe McDevitt show you how to have more fun with your Commodore.

### **1996 Board of Directors**

**PRESIDENT & BASICs/Graphics SIG**  
Joe McDevitt, (314) 385-6082

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Wayne Steinfeldt, (314) 227-7547

**SECRETARY**  
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**BOD & GEOS SIG**  
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Bill Keeney, (314) 962-7023

**BOD & Equipment Manager**  
Ed Dawes, (314) 928-4879

**PLUS/4 SIG**  
Al Conrow, (314) 227-7455

**CUGSL BBS (314) 837-5757**

## **The Commodore Users Group of St. Louis**

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## **Is it time to renew?**

If your address label shows the current month and year your membership expires this month.